

**The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group
for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program
January 26, 2023 at 1:30pm
Johnny Calderon County Building
710 East Main St., Robstown, TX
MEETING MINUTES**

I. Called to Order and Welcomed by Co-Chair Scott Bledsoe at 1:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call conducted by Travis Pruski

<u>Voting Members:</u>	<u>Representing Sector:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Co- Chair Scott Bledsoe	Water Districts	Present
Co-Chair Dr. Pancho Hubert	Small Businesses	Present
Thomas Reding	River Authorities	Present
Secretary Lonnie Stewart	GMA 13	Present
Joe Almaraz	Industries	Present
Aron Baggett	Industries	Present
Chuck Burns	Agriculture	Present
Gene Camargo	Other	Present
Teresa Carrillo	Environment	Present
Carl Crull P.E.	Other	Present
James Dodson	Environment	Present
Bill Dove	Small Businesses	Absent
Lavoyger Durham	Counties	Present
Gary Eddins	Electrical Generating Utilities	Present
Andy Garza	GMA 16	Present
John Marez	Water Utilities	Present
Esteban Ramos	Municipalities	Absent
Charles Ring	Agriculture	Absent
Donna Rosson	Public	Absent
Mark Scott	Municipalities	Present
Mark Sugarek	GMA 15	Absent

<u>Non-Voting Members:</u>	<u>Representing Sector:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Kevin Smith	Texas Water Development Board	Present
Kristi Shaw	HDR	Present
Travis Pruski	Nueces River Authority	Present
Lorie Flores	Nueces River Authority	
Nelda Barrera	Texas Department of Agriculture	Absent
Dr. Jim Tolan	Texas Parks and Wildlife	Present
Tomas Dominguez	USDA-NRCS	Absent
John Byrum	Region L-South-Central Texas RWPG	Absent
	Nueces River Authority	
David Fuentes	Region M-Rio Grande RWPG	Absent
	Precinct 1 Commissioner, Weslaco	

Note: Quorum.

<u>Guest:</u>	<u>Representing Sector:</u>
Ronnie Ramirez	TSSWCB
Brian Williams	SPMWD
Keith McKeand	Resident

Commented [SK1]: Is Rusty Ray with TSSWCB a non-voting member? He's shown on the NRA Region N website as a non-voting member.

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Jorge Gonzales

Port of Corpus Christi
Duval GCD

III. ACTION ITEM: Consider Approval of August 4th, 2022, Minutes.

Approval of August 4th, 2022 minutes with the correction of agenda item 10, comment from Frank Wilson, correct misspelling of burier dam to barrier dam. After the correction, motion to approve minutes as presented by Chuck Burns and seconded by Mark Scott. Passed unanimously.

IV. ACTION ITEM: Consider subcommittee recommendations for non-municipal water demands (irrigation, manufacturing, steam electric, mining, livestock). Approve non-municipal water demand projections and submittal to TWDB. (Presentation by Kristi Shaw with HDR)

A Region N non-municipal subcommittee was formed on January 20, 2022, at a regular public meeting to review non-municipal water projections. The subcommittee consists of Charles Ring, Teresa Carrillo, Esteban Ramos, Andy Garza, Lonnie Stewart, and Mark Sugarek. On September 8th, the Region N non-municipal subcommittee met to review TWDB water demand projections for manufacturing, irrigation, mining, stream electric, and livestock users through year 2080. During the virtual meeting, draft TWDB projections were discussed along with TWDB methodology that was used to estimate the future water demand.

The subcommittee recommends the following for Region N consideration:

- Manufacturing- changes to draft TWDB manufacturing water demand projections.
 - Reduce McMullen County projections to 2018 use and hold constant for Years 2030-2080
 - Revise Nueces County to set equal to 2021 Plan projections for Years 2030-2060. Adopt TWDB projections for Years 2070-2080.
- Irrigation- No changes proposed. Adopt draft TWDB 2026 Plan projections.
- Mining- No changes proposed. Adopt draft TWDB 2026 Plan projections.
- Stream Electric- No changes proposed. Adopt draft TWDB 2026 Plan Projections.
- Livestock- No changes proposed. Adopt Draft TWDB 2026 Plan projections.

You can view tables on water demand projection summaries for each category, followed by the methodology that TWDB used to develop year 2030-2080 water demand projections on the TWDB website.

Comment made from Region N member that the group needs to get more information about future water demand in industries or expansions. What kind of growth are we expecting in the next five to ten years? Let see what we can find out by the next meeting in May 2023. Also, Region N members need more guidance from the TWDB for irrigation and mining.

Motion to approve the subcommittees recommendations with further review and discussion at the May 2023 meeting by Carl Crull P.E. and seconded by Thomas Reding. Passed unanimously.

V. ACTION ITEM: Authorize the Nueces River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment with HDR for development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan. Update by Kristi Shaw (HDR)

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At the August 2022 meeting, the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group approved a contract amendment between Nueces River Authority and the Texas Water Development Board for funding to complete development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan due to Legislative appropriations coming in different parts. This amendment will be with NRA and HDR to get the work completed.

Motion to authorize NRA to negotiate and execute a contract with HDR by Lonnie Stewart and seconded by Andy Garza. Passed unanimously.

VI. ACTION ITEM: Review the Status of Recommended Strategies from the 2021 Region N Plan with an Online Decade of 2020. Update by Kristi Shaw (HDR)

New to this cycle of Regional Water Planning is the requirement to identify infeasible water management strategies and projects that were recommended in the 2021 Regional Water Plans. At minimum, regional water planning groups (RWPGs) must review the status of recommended strategies and projects with an online decade of 2020 in the 2021 Regional Water Plans (RWPs). RWPGs are also encouraged to review additional near-term strategies or projects with lengthy permitting or construction processes. The specific requirements for this task are outlined in the regional water planning Scope of work Task 4B and the First Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, Section 2.11, including a criteria of an infeasible WMS flowchart (Section 2.11, Figure 3).

Key Milestones to be aware of include:

- Prior to 3/4/2024: Results of RWPG analysis of infeasible strategies and or projects presented at a public meeting. This meeting is to include documentation of the region's process for determining infeasible WMSs.
- 3/4/2024: Technical Memorandum due to TWDB. Technical Memorandum required to include the list of RWPG identified infeasible strategies and or projects from the 2021 RWPs, or a statement that no infeasible strategies or projects were identified.
- 6/5/2024: RWPG adopted 2021 RWP amendments to revise/remove infeasible strategies and or projects due to the TWDB.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM: Update on City of Corpus Christi Desalination Project

Steven Ramos was not in attendance. No update on City of Corpus Christi Desalination Project.

VIII. ACTION ITEM: Proposed Region N Meeting Dates for 2023: May 11 and Oct 12

IX. RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues Presentation by Kevin Smith (TWDB)

TWDB Updates:

1. RWP Contract Amendments- to include anticipated total project cost, full scope of work, and updated contract guidance documents. Amendment between the board and NRA was executed 10.25.22.
2. Interregional Planning Council met in Austin November 09, 2022, with a virtual component. Next meeting will be March 9, 2023. TWDB will be working on outstanding TWDB recommendations

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- like liaison materials, TCEQ members, policy, membership costs, and active RWPG committees. Survey sent to RWPGs on recommendation implementation and IPC prioritization of recommendations due 1.31.23. More information is available at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/2027IPC.asp>.
3. Swift applications period is open through 2.1.23.
 4. New one-pagers on water supply, flood mitigation strategies, drought record and consistency waivers.
 5. New Educational materials for RWPG members guide and administrative guidance for RWPG sponsors.
 6. Legislative Priorities full report can be viewed on line at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/administrative/doc/88thLegislativePrioritiesReport.pdf>
 7. Draft TWDB water demand projections and Population projection + plumbing code savings + municipal demand were provided January 23, 2023. RWPGs request revisions for non-municipal demand projections due July 14, 2023. RWPGs request revisions for population and municipal demand projections due August 11,2023. TWDB board meeting to adopt projection fall of 2023, and technical memorandum due March 4,2024.
 8. Important Consideration data released this far is available online at <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/projections.asp>. Timeframe for reviewing draft population and municipal demand projections is 6 months.
 9. Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWPs are:
 - Task 3: Exhibit C, Section 2.3 Water Availability and Existing Supplies
 - Task 4: Exhibit C, Section 2.11 Identification of infeasible WMSs in the 2021 RWP
 - Task 4b: Exhibit C, Section 2.11
 - Task 4c: Exhibit C, Section 2.12.1 Technical Memorandum
 - Task 5B: Exhibit C, Section 2.5 Evaluation/recommendation of strategies and projects
 - Task 7: Exhibit C, Section 2.7 Drought response information
 - Task 9: Exhibit C, Section 2.9 Implementation
 - Task 10: Exhibit C, Section 2.10, 2.13, 2.14 Adoption and deliverables
 10. Important Reminders:
 - Infrastructure finance survey and related chapter removed.
 - RWPG task to prioritize recommended projects removed.
 - Due to removal of IFR chapter, 2026 RWPs will have 10 Chapters (Implementation and comparison of previous plan now chapter 9)
 - Documents available on the 2026 RWP document Page: General copy of first amended SOW, First amended Exhibit C, Summary of major revisions to Exhibit C, can be viewed at <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>

X. General Public Comment *Citizens may address the Planning Group concerning an issue of interest that is not listed on the agenda. Agenda item comments must be made when the item comes before the board. The planning group will place a time limit on all comments of 3 minutes.*

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Comment from Region N voting member Teresa Carrillo- There is an Oxy Carbon Capture project on the King Ranch in Kleberg County close to Nueces County. This project could have some impact on the water supply in Kleberg County. This is something that Region N needs to keep an eye on as it develops.

XI. Confirm Next Meeting Date: May 11th.

Meeting adjourned by Carl Crull and seconded by Co- Chair Dr. Pancho Hubert at 2:49 p.m. Passed Unanimously.

The Region N- Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group Executive Committee may announce that it will go into executive session on any item listed on this agenda if the subject matter is permitted by law for a closed session. The open portions of this meeting will be recorded and made available to the public upon request.

If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to tpruski@nueces-ra.org and include "Region N. Coastal Bend Water Planning Group Meeting Public Comment" in the subject line of the email. Additional information may be obtained from: Travis Pruski, Nueces River Authority, 539 HWY 83 South, 830-278-6810, tpruski@nueces-ra.org.